

## **VETERANS' SERVICES**

Fiscal Year 2004

### **VETERANS' BENEFITS**

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefits program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families who qualify to receive benefits and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms that are necessary for them to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans Administration. The Department now has access to many veteran-related internet sites and government agencies.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2004**

The Department of Veterans' Services has experienced an increase in cases because of several factors:

The veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan require assistance in seeking employment, educational opportunities, and assistance in making the transition to civilian life. While health care is not a major issue for them, we recommend they register with the VA hospital system to establish their eligibility for care in the future.

Health care for the Vietnam-era veterans is a major concern due to the aging of this group. Providing employment opportunities is challenging because of age and is time-consuming for the office and the veterans. Veterans seeking financial assistance are required to actively seek employment in order to maintain their eligibility.

The families of WWII veterans work with the office to arrange burial for their loved ones and to seek assistance with filing for survivor benefits. Obviously health care is also a major concern for these families and we try to provide the most up-to-date information available.

If you are a veteran or you have a friend or relative who has served in the armed forces, we are asking that they register with our office so that we can better serve their needs and are able to give them the latest and best information available.

Rod Raubeson  
Director of Veterans' Services